

Assistant Director for Operations

19 October 1948

Chief, FBIB

Proof that TASS is Violating its Contract with AP

REFERENCE: Attached Correspondence

1. While the attached correspondence does not make it clear that FBIB is expected to assist the Department of State in proving that TASS is violating its contract with AP, it is assumed that this is what is intended.

2. In order for FBIB or anyone else to determine whether or not this contract is being violated, it will first of all be necessary to know specifically what the terms of this contract are and to have available the complete AP or UP to TASS file as well as TASS and Radio Moscow broadcasts and dispatches. FBIB does receive enough of the Radio Moscow and TASS broadcasts for this purpose, but does not have access to the AP or UP to TASS file.

3. Assuming that the conditions of the contract could be determined with relative ease and that the complete AP or UP to TASS file could be made available, the problem could be approached in two ways.

4. First, FBIB could select all Moscow radio items attributed to either AP or UP and compare them to the corresponding items supplied to TASS. This should reveal the extent, if any, to which these items are distorted or perverted. It is believed that since Moscow, or even TASS, attributes so little of its broadcast material to either AP or UP the results of this procedure would be very limited.

5. The second approach to the problem would be to determine the nature of Moscow's utilization of AP or UP items not attributed to AP or UP. This could be done by comparing all of Moscow's broadcast material with AP or UP "exclusives". To do this it would, of course, be necessary to obtain copies of all AP or UP "exclusives" supplied to TASS. This assumes that a Moscow or TASS transmission of an AP or UP "exclusive" which TASS or Moscow had picked up from an American newspaper would represent a violation of TASS' contract.

6. It is believed that a comparison of all of Moscow's broadcasts with the complete AP and UP files supplied to TASS during a corresponding period would be a fruitless undertaking. Except for AP or UP "exclusives", there would be no assurance that any particular Moscow or TASS item that might appear to correspond to an AP or UP item supplied TASS was in fact

This document contains parts of AP or UP item.
integrated file.

If separated from file, document is
unclassified

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